



Serving Children and Families

KIM S. AYDLETTE, STATE DIRECTOR

Date: _____

The South Carolina Department of Social Services has a project called Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) to improve the Food Stamp Program process for elderly households. Our elderly citizens often face barriers to food stamp participation due to the complex application process and problems associated with age, such as transportation, mobility and disability. ESAP allows us to meet the goals of the Food Stamp Program to provide food assistance to raise levels of nutrition among low-income individuals and to better serve the nutritional needs of elderly individuals.

To receive food stamp benefits under ESAP, you:

- Complete a simple application form;
- Do not have to be interviewed by a caseworker;
- Provide limited verification of your circumstances; and
- Complete a one page mail-in form yearly to continue food stamp benefits.

You should be eligible to participate in ESAP:

- If all of the members of your household (those people who live with you and purchase and prepare food together) are elderly (age 60 or older);
- If the members of your household have no earned income (salaries from work); and
- If no member of your household receives food stamps under the South Carolina Combined Application Project (SCCAP).

To receive food stamps, you must:

1. Review the enclosed Family Independence Information and Referral Services brochure which provides information on various other agencies, organizations and community resources that could be of benefit to your household.
2. Sign the enclosed DSS Form 3800C, FI Information and Referral Services Determination Form.
3. Complete and sign the enclosed ESAP application, DSS Form 16176.
4. Submit the DSS Form 16176 and the DSS Form 3800C:
 - a. In the enclosed self-addressed envelope provided for you; or
 - b. Mail it to ESAP, South Carolina Department of Social Services, P.O. Box 1520, Columbia, S.C. 29202-1520; or
 - c. Fax it to 803-898-7141.

A copy of the Food Stamp Program Rights and Responsibilities accompanies this letter.

If you have any questions concerning food stamps or this letter, please call the ESAP toll-free hotline at 1-800-616-1309.

IMPORTANT

You are not required to pay tax on food purchased with food stamps.

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